



United States Department of State

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Washington, DC 20522

March 16, 2020

Dear Scholar:

Congratulations on your participation in the Exchange Visitor Program! On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, I want you to know that your decision to come to the United States is important to us. We want your program to be a positive and memorable experience for you.

You are a valued guest in the United States, and we want you to succeed in this program. We hope you learn about American customs, values, and culture, and build strong relationships with your new colleagues, fellow scholars and professors, instructors, and friends. You will be conducting scholarly and research activities at an attending institution, which may have different rules and ways of life from what you are used to, so keeping an open mind will be important to your success.

You have agreed to follow the program rules that govern the [research scholar](#) or [short-term scholar](#) exchange program at <https://j1visa.state.gov/sponsors/current/regulations-compliance/>. We hope you have taken the time to review the program rules carefully and that you understand your rights and responsibilities. If you have any questions and/or do not understand your rights and responsibilities, please contact your U.S. sponsor (university/institution administrator).

Your U.S. sponsor is your first point of contact throughout your stay in the United States. Your sponsor is identified on your Form DS-2019, Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Program (J-1) Status. If you have any questions about your exchange program, if you need assistance of any kind while you are here, or if something just does not feel right to you, immediately contact your U.S. sponsor. It is your sponsor's responsibility to help you with any problems, needs, or concerns you may have.

If you have concerns and/or issues that your U.S. sponsor has not resolved, or you find you cannot reach your sponsor, please contact the U.S. Department of State through our J-1 Visa Emergency Hotline (1-866-283-9090), which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If your question or concern does not require immediate attention, please e-mail us at AGexchanges@state.gov. Moreover, the Department prepared information to make sure you can always get help if you ever need it at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/exchange.html>.

As a scholar on the Exchange Visitor Program, you are now part of an alumni network of exchange visitors. You can become an official member of the International Exchange alumni network at: <https://alumni.state.gov/>.

We are pleased that you made the decision to participate in the Exchange Visitor Program and we hope you enjoy your stay in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G.K. Saba", enclosed within a circular blue ink stamp.

G.K. Saba
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Private Sector Exchange